

**MINUTES
FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Lawrence gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton and City Manager, Janice Hall.

Councilman Goolsby was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Stroud, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2019 PARK PLAN MEETING

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Stroud who abstained due to not being in attendance for the meeting).

ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST FOR MAIN STREET 2019 EVENTS – TAMMIE PIERSON

Mrs. Tammie Pierson, Economic Development Director, reviewed the events planned for 2019 and those requiring street closure for Jackson Street from Main Street to Johnston Street will be concerts and/or events on April 20, May 4, June 1, August 3, November 25, and December 31 and the Fall Festival on October 31 will require additional closure of Johnston Street from Lee Street to Phelps Street.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the street closure request for Main Street 2019 events as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMITS FOR ACADEMY OF GRADUATE EMBALMERS OF GEORGIA FOR CONSUMPTION ONLY AT THE MONROE COUNTY CONFERENCE CENTER ON APRIL 8 & 9, 2019

Ms. Hall reviewed the permits submitted for temporary alcohol for consumption only by the Graduate Embalmers of Georgia for their Annual Clinic to be held in Forsyth April 8-11, 2019. Ms. Hall stated that the ordinance provides that a temporary permit can only be for one (1) day and only six (6) permits to one organization per year; therefore, the Graduate Embalmers of Georgia submitted the two separate permits to cover both April 8 and April 9 events.

Mr. Dodd asked if any of our local funeral homes are participating in the clinics and Mr. Hewett asked how many will be attending. Ms. Hall was unsure of the answer to either question and stated that she would try to obtain the information. Ms. Hall further stated that she has put the Graduate Embalmers of Georgia in touch with Ms. Stanbery with the CVB for any assistance the CVB can give during their time here.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permits as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE – EDDIE HARRIS

Chief Eddie Harris introduced new city employee Ti’Jami Brown and stated that Ms. Brown is the new administrative assistant in the police department and will be answering the phones, making sure that police reports are completed and that requests for reports are handled. Everyone welcomed Ms. Brown to the City.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION – EDDIE HARRIS

Chief Eddie Harris recognized Officer Terrance Thomas and stated that Officer Thomas is being promoted to Corporal on the night shift to replace the corporal that recently resigned. Chief Harris thanked Corporal Thomas for the good job that he has done for the city and stated that he expects him to continue to climb up the ladder within the department. Chief Harris also thanked Thomas’ family in attendance for their support of him, further stating that law enforcement must have the support of their family in the jobs that they perform. Everyone congratulated Corporal Thomas on his promotion.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

Ms. Hall reviewed the four responses to the RFP for Solid Waste Collection stating these were due on Friday, March 15, 2019. Ms. Hall reviewed differences and similarities in the responses received in the spreadsheet provided to council and reviewed the cost to the city for the service, stating that Advanced Disposal proposes to remain at the current cost of \$10.67 which is the lowest cost proposal submitted. Mayor Wilson pointed out that two of the responders provided cost that, if chosen, would require an increase to the citizens for garbage pickup. Ms. Hall recommended to council to remain with Advanced Disposal and incorporate the changes suggested in their proposal with the main change being to provide 65-gallon recycle containers rather than the bins currently provided.

Mr. Jarod Lovett, Advanced Disposal, was in attendance and reviewed the change in recycling containers and further stated that Advanced Disposal purchases the carts from local company, Encore. Mr. Hewett asked Mr. Lovett about recycling glass and Mr. Lovett reviewed the reasons why glass is not recycled. Mr. Lawrence stated that there were issues when the city first changed from picking up garbage ourselves to working with Advanced Disposal but those issues have been worked out and everything seems to be working well now.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Advanced Disposal. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$160,131.81

Ms. Hall reviewed invoices for approval by department for a grand total of \$160,131.81.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the invoices for payment as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

Core & Main – replace handheld unit for meter readers - \$8,500

ADC - dechlorinating agent to be used at the south wastewater plant \$7484.40

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5,000 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Hall offered the following report:

- Meeting with Steve Jones, David Herndon, and Eddie Harris to discuss Kimball and Harris Streets. Public Works will paint the east side of Harris Street from Johnston to Adams as a fire lane and install no parking, fire lane signs. Chief Harris will help notify the businesses on Harris that the no

parking is being enforced and that initially warnings will be given. Public Works will restripe the parking spaces on the west side of Harris Street one of which will be a handicap parking space. Public Works will paint the eastside curb on Kimball Street yellow as no parking area and restripe the parking spaces on the westside and remove the no parking space.

- Site visit to all parks with TSW went well – there will be some changes from the concept plan that they presented for Country Club due to elevation issues that they were not aware of until they visited the park. We had some really good brainstorming thoughts while at each park and included the highlights at the end of the minutes. Next meeting is April 16 from 1-7; TSW will be here all day with boards showing each park and we want the community to come by and provide input
- Fire department is training in old Colonial Store building so you may see them going in and out in full turnout gear – they are just training.
- Requested Mr. Melton hold off one more week on advertising for the Downtown Entertainment District with information that we received regarding other communities. Will have that ready for public hearing at 2nd meeting in April
- 2018 budget adjustments to balance out departments will be coming – admin for purchase of properties, recreation for Splashpad employees & utilities, debt service (fire truck budget \$60,000 actual \$64,500 and tractor budget \$20,000 actual \$23,295), and capital outlay for Streetscape Phase III
- BOE will have Open House and Ribbon Cutting for remodeled admin building on March 29 from 2-4 with ceremony at 2:30
- Restroom punch list should be complete this Wednesday. Montego working this week to dewinterize Splashpad; hope to have ready for Spring break April 1-5
- Next One Monroe meeting is April 30
- County is working to call for a local T-SPLOST on the November ballot; their project will be resurfacing 165 miles of road in the county (none within the city); required to hold meeting with Municipalities and that meeting will be June 13; estimate 5-year T-SPLOST to generate \$21 million and city portion would be 15% same as SPLOST approximately \$3 million; if city participates can only use on transportation projects (roads, sidewalks, bridges). Council discussed what happens if city chooses not to participate in the T-SPLOST. Mr. Stroud stated that city should participate and we need to educate the public why we should participate and how the funds will be used.
- County also working to bond the 2020 SPLOST; we will be included in the bond; cannot bond road improvements so we would only have public safety and water/sewer; recommend bonding 75% of remainder which would be \$2,495,318
- GMA registrations completed last Tuesday; only one did not get hotel requested all other hotels and classes requested were completed; huge thank you to Regina, Janet, Nancy, Tammie, Monica, Judy, and Mayor Wilson for their assistance to me in getting these registrations completed
- 2019 animal control agreement received from Monroe County; will place on agenda for next meeting; no changes to agreement
- Regional Commission hosts and assist in updating content on city website. They were concerned with amount of files on website and suggested that we only keep 1-2 years of minutes and only 1 month at a time of Mayor's radio segment. We removed 7 years of minutes from the website but of course we have those in our files just not hosted on the website. Also discussed with RC about updating our website and we will begin working on that as soon as they have submitted CDBG applications end of March.

- Reminder that Clark Nexsen will be coming on April 1 to review concepts for new city hall building and recommended that this meeting be a work session as the previous meetings with them have been rather than during the regular council meeting
- Backlot Players at Rose Theater Community Appreciation & 2019-2020 Season Reveal Night on 3/28 at 6:30 pm at the Rose Theatre
- Today is Ms. Hall's 26th anniversary with the city and she stated that it is truly an honor and a privilege to serve for and with Council for the citizens of Forsyth.

Mr. Hewett asked if Tift College Drive is on the LMIG list and Ms. Hall stated that it is not. Council discussed the need to add Tift College especially at the railroad crossing. Ms. Hall stated that she and Hofstadter & Associates are currently working with GDOT to figure out if/how the roads submitted for LMIG resurfacing can be amended and she will see if this section can be done in lieu of some of the roads submitted. Ms. Hall stated she would update council as she has information from GDOT.

Mr. Howard asked if the speed bumps have been ordered and Ms. Hall stated they have not been ordered but the company that we purchased the ones on Newton Memorial from are working on a recommendation as to number and placement for speed bumps on Blount Street and Brentwood Place.

Mr. Hewett stated that the perimeter of the city cemetery still needs to be cleaned and limbs and debris removed.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that he has a deed to present to council for acceptance from the H.H. Hardin Trust for the section of the parking lot on Adams Street that the city currently leases from the Trust. Mr. Melton stated that the deed is presented as a gift/donation from the H.H. Hardin Trust to the City of Forsyth. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to accept the deed from the H.H. Hardin Trust. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson thanked the H.H. Hardin Trust for the donation and requested that a letter be sent to the Trust. Mr. Melton stated the he will record the deed this week.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilson reported that HB-302 failed to pass out of the House and is dead unless tagged on to another Bill.

Mayor Wilson requested that a Technical Assistance Request be sent to the Regional Commission requesting the Regional Commission to provide administrative resources to the I-75 Corridor Coalition. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to submit the requested Technical Assistance request. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson requested that dues be paid to the I-75 Corridor Coalition. Ms. Hall stated that the information received states the dues remain the same as last year of \$2,000 but the city paid dues in the amount of \$1,000 last year. Mayor Wilson stated that the government dues amount is \$500 annually but we paid an additional fee last year. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to pay the annual dues to the I-75 Corridor Coalition. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson reviewed the agreement approved by the City with the Clean Air Coalition regarding energy efficient projects. The Clean Air Coalition received proposals and has selected Schneider Energy as the provider for any energy efficient projects. Mayor Wilson reviewed how the energy audit process works.

Mayor Wilson reviewed information discussed at the Monroe County Health Board meeting where the Board approved pledging matching funds with Monroe County Commissioners for a CDBG application

for building improvements to the health department building. Mayor Wilson stated that the Health Department is offering extended hours on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Lawrence stated that there is no cost to participate in the Hubbard Alumni parade.

Mr. Stroud asked if we are prepared for changes to elections that are included in HB-316. Ms. Hall stated that she will contact the Elections Board to confirm that they are monitoring the Bill and preparing for any changes and report back to council.

Mr. Dodd asked Mayor Wilson if there is any update on the commercial lane project that the I75 Corridor Coalition is proposing and where the lane would be located. Mayor Wilson responded that a presentation was made to the I75 Corridor Coalition a couple of months back and the proposal being worked on is for the northbound lanes only and that all local traffic exits would remain open. Mr. Hewett asked if there will be plans for southbound lanes as well and Mayor Wilson responded that the only proposal made was for northbound from the port.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (MAYOR WILSON TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager